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Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W
---------- 016575
O R 291710Z APR 76
FM AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3198
INFO AMEMBASSY MADGPD

S E C R E T TRIPOLI 0545

EXDIS

1. I CONVEYED USG CONCERN ABOUT CONTINUED DELAY IN PROCESSING THOMAS CASE DURING IMPROMPTU WIDERANGING CONVERSATION BETWEEN QADHAFI AND THOSE FEW DIPLOMATES ATTENDING AGRICULTURAL PROJECT CEREMONIES NEAR TRIPOLI LAST EVENING, APRIL 19 (REPORTED SEPTEL. I TOLD QADHAFI THAT FAILURE SATISFACTORILY RESOLVE THOMAS CASE REMAINS AN OBSTACLE TO IMPROVEMENT OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS AND THAT LONG DETENTION HERE HAD BROUGHT HARDSHIP TO THOMAS' FAMILY. I SAID I WISHED BRING CASE TO HIS ATTENTION FOR HUMANITARIAN REASONS AND EXPRESSED HOPE THAT THOMAS WILL BE PERMITTED BY LIBYAN JUDICIAL AUTHORITIES TO REJOIN HIS FAMILY IN NEAR FUTURE.

2. WHEN QADHAFI SAID HE WAS NOT AWARE OF CASE AND ASKED FOR BACKGROUND, I BRIEFLY REVIEWED THE STORY AND NOTED THAT AFTER ALMOST NINE MONTHS DETENTION, THOMAS HAD NOT YET BEEN FORMALLY CHARGED WITH SPECIFIC OFFENSE BUT THAT SECURITY QUESTION SEEMED TO BE INVOLVED. QADHAFI PROMISED "FULL INVESTIGATION AND SAID FOREIGN MINISTRY WOULD GIVE US RESULTS OF LARG INQUIRY.
3. IN CONTEXT OUR DISCUSSION THOMAS CASE, QADHAFI RAISED SUBJECT OF DEATH LIBYAN STUDENT UNDER "MYSTERIOUS CIRCUMSTANCES" IN U.S. HE SAID LARG HAD NOT BEEN GIVEN DETAILS SURROUNDING THE STUDENT'S DEATH. I SAID I DID NOT HAVE COMPLETE STORY BUT RECALLED THERE HAD BEEN LEGAL PROBLEM INVITVING RELEASE INVESTIGATION INFORMATION BEFORE
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CASE BROUGHT TO TRIAL. I ASSURED HIM THAT WE WOMWD CHECK

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ON CIRCUMSTANCES OF CASE AND BRING OUR INFORMATION TO
MFA.
4. ATTRACTING QADHAFI'S ATTENTION TO THOMAS CASE SHOULD
BREAK CURRENT STALEMATE IN PROSECUTOR BARUNI'S OFFICE.
WHILE QADHAFI DID NOT SPECIFY POINT OF CONTACT AND TIMING FOR
FURTHER MOVEMENT, WE ARE NOW
IN A BETTER POSITION TO PRESS BOTH
MINISTRY OF FORNQN AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF AGRICULTURAL
DEVELOPMENT GAUD FOR A RESOLUTION. GAUD IS CLOSE TO
QADHAFI AND SERVED AS INTERPRETER DURING THIS EXCHANGE.
5. INSCE QADHAFI LINKED THOMAS PROBLEM WITH LIBYAN
STUDENT'S DEATH WE WILL
FORWARD TO FOREIGN MINISTRY
INFORMATION CONTAINED IN DEPT NOTE TO LIBYAN EMBASSY DATED
DECEMBER 10, 1975 BUT WOULD FIRST APPRECIATE ANY ADDITIONAL IN-
FORMATION WHICH DEPT CAN PROVIDE.
6. SUGGEST CONSIDERATION ACTIONS REQUESTED TRIPOLI
0439 BE SUSPENDED UNTIL WE SEE WHETHER QADHAFI
MAKES GOOD ON PROMISE.
CARLE

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